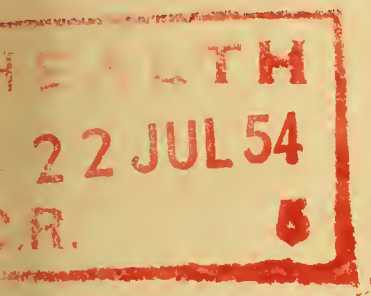


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TUNBRIDGE WELLS



BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

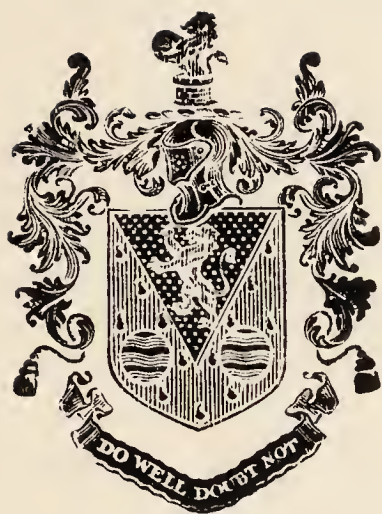
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Tunbridge Wells :
C. BALDWIN, LTD., GROSVENOR ROAD
1858/54

BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

(Constitution at 31st December, 1953).

THE MAYOR (Mr. Alderman J. A. McNAB, M.B.E.).

Mr. Councillor K. J. G. MORRISON (*Chairman*).

Mr. Councillor A. T. GOULDEN. Mr. Councillor J. T. SPARE.

Mr. Councillor D. J. HUTCHINGS. Councillor Mrs. M. TYLOR.

Mr. Councillor D. SAVAGE. Councillor Mrs. R. S. WALFORD,
B.E.M.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health ; Principal Medical Officer to Kent County Council
(Area No. 4) ; Visiting Medical Officer Infectious Diseases Hospital :

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

T. S. ELLIS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

Sanitary Inspectors :

A. BARNETT, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert. (Resigned 30.9.53).

T. ELLISON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

T. STEEL, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

R. WELCH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert. (Appt. 1.12.53).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

D. T. REES, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

Health Visitors :

*Miss M. BRERETON.

*Miss M. MACLAREN.

*Miss D. LAZELL (appt. 4.1.53).

*Miss P. TURNER.

*Miss W. M. WEST.

Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital :

† Miss B. L. DE MAUGER, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.

CLERICAL STAFF :

Chief Clerk :

Mrs. D. E. TEBBIT.

Second Clerk :

Miss I. A. PEARSON (Resigned 30.6.53).

Miss G. M. MOORE (Appointed 29.6.53).

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :

D. A. BARMBY.

Rodent Operators :

B. E. MANN. E. J. SMITHERMAN.

Public Analyst :

H. E. MONK, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.Inst.S.P.A., A.M.Inst.W.E.

J. W. FLINT, B.A. (Cantab.), F.R.I.C.

* County Staff employed locally

† Under Control of Regional Hospital Board

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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1953. The Report on the whole seems to present a satisfactory position.

The population at mid-year 1953 as estimated by the Registrar-General was 38,770 compared with 38,750 in 1952. The following Census figures shows the growth of the population of the Borough during the past fifty years :—

1901 ...	33,373	1931 ...	35,367
1911 ...	35,703	1951 ...	38,397
1921 ...	34,270		

The number of births in the Borough was 495 (254 males and 241 females). This shows an increase of sixty-one on the previous year. The birth rates for the last five years are as follows :—

1949 ...	13.64	1952 ...	11.2
1950 ...	13.6	1953 ...	12.8
1951 ...	12.6		

The general birth rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 15.5.

The number of deaths was 575 (243 males and 332 females), as against 597 in 1952 and 644 in 1951. The crude death rate for the Borough was 14.8. The standardised death rate was 9.3 as compared with the death rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 11.4. The principal causes of death in the order of incidence were :—

- (a) Disease of the heart and circulation other than coronary—
160 (of which 31 were due to circulatory diseases).

- (b) Cancer and other tumours—109.
- (c) Vascular lesions of the nervous system—92.
- (d) Coronary disease—78.

The diseases causing the greatest number of deaths in males were as follows :—

- (a) Heart disease (other than coronary)—57.
- (b) Coronary disease—50.
- (c) Cancer—49.
- (d) Vascular lesions of nervous system—34.

In females the diseases causing the greatest number of deaths were :—

- (a) Heart disease (other than coronary)—103.
- (b) Cancer—60.
- (c) Vascular lesions of nervous system—58.

Since 1950 the Registrar-General has given separate figures for deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus. These figures for the four year period since these statistics were given are as follows :—

				<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
1950	...	...	...	4	2	2
1951	...	...	...	14	12	2
1952	...	...	...	15	10	5
1953	...	...	...	14	13	1

The subject of lung cancer has received a considerable amount of prominence recently as, from statistical investigation, there appears to be evidence that this disease has some connection with tobacco smoking. While one must give due weight to these statistical deductions further research is still needed into many other factors which may have a bearing on the causation of this disease.

Deaths of infants under one year numbered six, giving an infant mortality rate per thousand live births of 15.5. This rate compares favourably with the rates which have been prevalent in the Borough for some years. The high rate of 36.9 for the previous year (1952) proved to be a temporary

deviation from the consistently low rates of recent years, but it must be pointed out that when dealing with relatively small numbers a few extra deaths have a considerable adverse affect on this rate.

I am pleased to be able to report that the death rate from tuberculosis is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough, the figures being 0.13 per thousand of the population. The table on page 20 of the report shows the death rates from this disease over a period of twenty-five years. The trend of the death rate for this period has in general been downward. The present death rate when compared with the average yearly rate for the quinquennium 1930/34 shows that the present rate is now one-fourth of what it was during this five-year period.

During the year three hundred and forty-nine cases of infectious disease were notified. The number of Measles cases was one hundred and fifty-six. These occurred in the earlier months and were the result of the persistence of the autumnal epidemic of the previous year. No deaths were recorded.

Whooping Cough was endemic throughout the year, fifty cases being notified. There were no deaths.

Sixty-six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with twenty-eight during the previous year. The disease continues to be of a very mild type. Forty-three of these cases were nursed at home.

Five cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified throughout the year. The number of cases confirmed as, and deaths from, Acute Poliomyelitis in the Borough from 1947 when the disease first became prevalent are as follows :—

		1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cases	...	10	1	2	5	1	3
Deaths	...	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. For four successive years this satisfactory position has been maintained. The continued absence of this grave disease from the population

can only be effected by ensuring that each child is protected by prophylactic immunisation. I cannot urge too strongly that all children be immunised during their early years and that the recommended "booster" doses be carried out during their school lives.

During the year the number of persons vaccinated was three hundred and twenty-one, and re-vaccinated fifty-six. The number of children under two years of age who were vaccinated was two hundred and twenty-seven. The most appropriate time to have primary vaccination carried out is under one year of age. The tables on page 21 deal with the numbers immunised and vaccinated during the year and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the summary of statistics given in these tables.

It will be noted from page 24 of the report that action was taken under the National Assistance Acts, for the removal of an elderly person to a Home. This man was in need of care and attention and was living under very bad conditions. I would like to stress that it is only as a last resort that action of this nature is contemplated by the department.

During the year an increasing number of cases of this nature came to the notice of the department owing to the fact that when all arrangements had been made for their admission to a Home the elderly persons refused, quite understandably, to leave the houses that had been their own homes for many years. It has always been my aim to seek the co-operation of these people rather than to adopt compulsory methods, and I may add that this line of action, although very often taking up a considerable amount of time, had, with the exception of the case now reported, always been successful in the past.

A summary of the services provided by the Kent County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, is given at the end of the report.

The laboratories at County Hall, Maidstone, and at the Kent and Sussex Hospital deal with the majority of bacteriological investigations for the Borough.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Ellis, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the preparation of the statistics shown in pages 25 to 37 of this report, which give some idea of the many and varied duties undertaken by the Sanitary Inspecting Staff.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council particularly the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest in the working of the Department, also the Chief Officers for their co-operation, and my Staff for their loyal assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. CROWLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

1 (a)—Summary of Statistics.

1 (a)—(i) GENERAL.

Area : 6,034 acres.

Population : 38,770 (R.G.'s Estimate 1953). 38,397 (R.G.'s Census figure 1951).

Density of population, *i.e.*, number of persons per acre : 6.4.

Number of inhabited houses : *11,391.

Rateable value, 1953 : £506,082.

Sum produced by a penny rate : £2,005.

Mean Annual Temperature : 49.7° F.

Hours of Bright Sunshine, 1953 : 1,615 hours.

Total Rainfall, 1953 : 23.21 inches.

*These figures include Flats, and represent the number of separately occupied premises.

1 (a)—(ii) BIRTHS.

<i>Live Births (Registered) :</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	471	242	229
Illegitimate	24	12	12
	<hr/>		
	495		
	<hr/>		

Corrected Birth Rate : 14.1.

Live birthrate per 1,000 population : 12.8

Corresponding rate for 1952 : 11.2.

1 (a)—(iii) <i>Stillbirths :</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>		
	8		
	<hr/>		

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births : 16.2.

1 (a)—(iv) DEATHS.

Males : 243. Females : 332. Total : 575.

Standardised Death Rate : 9.3.

Crude death rate per thousand of population : 14.8.

Corresponding rate for 1952 : 15.4.

1 (a)—(v) Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality per 1,000 total registered births	...	...	...	...	0.0

1 (a)—(vi) INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Causes of death :			
Congenital Malformations ... ..	...	...	2
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	...	...	3

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live
births : 15.5. (1952 : 36.9.)

1 (a)—(vii) Total number of deaths from :—	1952	1953
Measles (all ages)	2	—
Whooping-cough (all ages)	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
Cancer (all ages)	90	109

1. Table showing Summary of Causes of Death during the year ended 31st December, 1953.

No.	Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	—	2
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	1	1	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach ...	8	7	15
11.	Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	13	1	14
12.	Malignant Neoplasm Breast	—	11	11
13.	Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	3	3
14.	Other Malignant Lymphatic Neoplasms	28	38	66
15.	Leukæmia Aleukæmia	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	1	3	4
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	34	58	92
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	50	28	78
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	7	11	18
20.	Other Heart Disease	39	72	111
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	11	20	31
22.	Influenza	5	11	16
23.	Pneumonia	7	6	13
24.	Bronchitis	14	9	23
25.	Other Diseases of respiratory system ...	3	3	6
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	2	6
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	1	1	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	2	3
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	6	28	34
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	2	11	13
35.	Suicide	1	2	3
36.	Homicide and Operation of War ...	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		243	332	575

2. Table showing Birth-Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1953.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION									RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births.	Still- Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid or Para- typhoid.	Tuber- culosis (all forms).	Polio- myelitis & Polio- enceph.	Whooping- cough.	Diph- theria.	In- fluenza.	Small- pox	Pneu- monia.	Diarrhoea and En- teritis (un- der 2 yrs.).	Total Deaths Under 1 year.
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.35 22.4(a)	11.4	0.00	0.20	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.55	1.1	26.8(b)
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	17.0	0.35 22.4(a)	12.2	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.59	1.3	30.8
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Popu- lation 25,000 to 50,000, 1951 Census) ...	15.7	0.34 21.4(a)	11.3	0.00	0.19	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.52	0.9	24.3
London Administrative County ...	17.5	0.38 21.0(a)	12.5	—	0.24	0.01	0.00	—	0.15	—	0.64	1.1	24.8
TUNBRIDGE WELLS ... (Registrar-General's estimated population).	12.8 (14.1)	0.21 16.2(a)	14.8 (9.3)	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.34	0.00	12.1

* Figure in brackets is corrected figure for age and sex distribution
(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
(b) Per 1,000 related live births

3. TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEATHS AT SEVERAL AGES FOR CONSECUTIVE PERIODS OF FIVE YEARS.

	1901 to 1905	1906 to 1910	1911 to 1915	1916 to 1920	1921 to 1925	1926 to 1930	1931 to 1935	1936 to 1940	1941 to 1945	1946 to 1950	*	*	*
Deaths at under 1 year	57	46	40	36	23	22	18	17	21	22	7	17	6
„ 1 and under 2	29	23	16	{ 6	3	5	3	4	3	1	1	2	—
„ 2 „ „ 5				{ 9	5	5	4	3	3	1	4	2	2
„ 5 „ „ 15	11	10	16	{ 15	6	7	5	4	5	3	2	3	1
„ 15 „ „ 25	13	14	12	{ 21	10	10	7	7	4	3	3	5	1
„ 25 „ „ 45	141	141	145	{ 47	36	37	30	30	25	20	19	11	12
„ 45 „ „ 65				{ 107	104	118	119	115	107	101	98	93	84
„ 65 and upwards	178	205	234	{ 245	276	307	342	368	420	470	510	464	469

4. TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Five-yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis		Infectious Diseases.	Violence.	Influenza.
		Pul- monary.	Non-Pul- monary.			
1901-1905	226	167	61	104	45	67
1906-1910	251	154	48	90	35	87
1911-1915	260	133	46	110	49	60
1916-1920	310	150	62	59	50	178
1921-1925	328	111	32	27	65	64
1926-1930	384	106	21	30	59	91
1931-1935	383	65	20	15	57	52
1936-1940	417	60	14	21	81	55
1941-1945	502	66	16	13	65	61
1946-1950	496	44	9	9	52	25
*1951	108	6	1	2	30	19
*1952	90	4	1	3	17	1
*1953	109	2	—	1	17	16

* Inserted for comparison.

Table 5. Ages, etc., of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES (all ages).	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	3-4 years.	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	15-24 years.	25 and over.	Age not given.	Cases ad- mitted to hospital.	Deaths (Inhabi- tants only).
Scarlet Fever ...	66	—	4	7	32	21	—	2	—	23	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	20	—	—	—	4	—	—	16	—	1	13
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever (includ- ing Meningococcal Menin- gitis) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	50	2	16	12	19	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	156	1	32	50	58	10	3	2	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :— Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :— Paralytic ...	4	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	4	—
Non-Paralytic ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	39	2	24	6	3	—	2	2	—	7	—
Typhoid ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	349	6	76	78	117	31	7	34	—	38	13

Table 6. Seasonal Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	7	19	21	5	4	2	2	—	3	1	1	1	66
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	5	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	20
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	1	1	1	3	8	13	10	7	—	4	50
Measles ...	52	16	23	8	11	11	33	1	—	—	—	1	156
Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis :													
Paralytic ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	14	3	—	—	—	—	20	1	1	39
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	3
Acute Encephalitis :													
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Para-Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	65	43	50	32	25	16	46	15	15	30	4	8	349

Table 7. Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20... ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
20—25... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35... ..	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65... ..	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
	9	8	1	1	3	1	1	—

Table 8. Tuberculosis Register.

	1st Quarter.			2nd Quarter.			3rd Quarter.			4th Quarter.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>												
Number of cases on register	126	125	251	127	131	258	131	133	264	135	130	265
New notifications ...	3	2	5	1	1	2	3	1	4	2	4	6
Cases removed and subsequently restored ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to register (inward transfers) ...	1	4	5	4	2	6	2	1	3	1	—	1
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	3	—	3	1	1	2	1	5	6	4	4	8
Cases remaining on register	127	131	258	131	133	264	135	130	265	134	130	264
<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>												
Number of cases on register	29	34	63	29	34	63	30	34	64	30	34	64
New notifications ...	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed and subsequently restored ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to Register (inward transfers)	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cases remaining on register	29	34	63	30	34	64	30	34	64	29	34	63

Table 9. Tuberculosis—Summary of Cases

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	Total.
	Male.		Female.		
Cases on Register at beginning of year...	126	29	125	34	314
Cases added	17	2	15	1	35
Cases removed	9	2	10	1	22
Remaining	134	29	130	34	327

Table 10. Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis during the past 25 years.

Year.	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY		Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.		Total.
	No. of cases notified.	Deaths.	No. of cases notified.	Deaths.		Pul-mon-ary.	Non-Pul-monary.	
1953	17	3	2	1	5	0.10	0.03	0.13
1952	24	5	8	1	6	0.13	0.03	0.16
1951	17	5	7	1	6	0.13	0.03	0.16
1950	18	9	4	—	9	0.23	0.00	0.23
1949	27	7	4	—	7	0.18	0.00	0.18
1948	30	9	5	—	9	0.23	0.00	0.23
1947	37	10	3	3	13	0.26	0.08	0.33
1946	27	7	3	1	8	0.19	0.03	0.22
1945	22	16	11	1	17	0.45	0.03	0.48
1944	25	11	5	3	14	0.31	0.08	0.39
1943	17	10	7	2	12	0.27	0.06	0.33
1942	25	13	12	5	18	0.35	0.13	0.48
1941	35	12	11	2	14	0.32	0.05	0.37
1940	22	14	6	—	14	0.37	0.00	0.37
1939	23	10	10	3	13	0.28	0.08	0.36
1938	20	11	8	3	14	0.31	0.08	0.38
1937	13	12	8	4	16	0.33	0.11	0.44
1936	13	14	12	3	17	0.39	0.08	0.47
1935	23	12	8	5	17	0.34	0.14	0.48
1934	21	12	13	4	16	0.34	0.11	0.45
1933	27	14	14	4	18	0.41	0.12	0.53
1932	32	12	14	3	15	0.34	0.09	0.43
1931	27	16	7	3	19	0.46	0.09	0.58
1930	19	21	18	5	26	0.60	0.14	0.74
1929	21	19	5	4	23	0.54	0.11	0.65

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1939).

Year of Birth.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1949-1953	254	113	158	208	177	214	153	222	319	465	403	357	351	290	19	3703
1948 or earlier	139	242	184	132	153	169	184	199	129	—	—	—	—	—	—	1531

Number of children who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1953 :—

Year of Birth.	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	Total
Primary Inoculations ...	19	262	42	17	12	12	8	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	378
Re-inforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	13	116	49	14	4	9	8	10	1	2	—	226

Vaccination.

Number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Year of Birth	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	Before 1939	Total
Primary Vaccination	156	121	14	6	4	3	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	9	321
Re-Vaccination	—	—	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	41	56

NURSING HOMES.

	Number of Homes	Number of Beds provided for :		
		Maternity	Others	Total
(a) Homes first registered during year	3	—	28	28
(b) Homes on the register at the end of the year	16	3	202	205
Number of visits of inspection made during year ...	—	—	—	25

**LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH provided
by the Kent County Council.**

Ambulance Facilities.

As in previous years, since the inception of the National Health Act, 1946, the Kent County Council Ambulance Service served the needs of the town from their station in Monson Road.

Domestic Help Service.

This service is also operated by the Kent County Council. The Area Organiser's office is at 41, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the Home is undertaken by Home Nurses employed by the Kent County Council. District Midwives also employed by the County Council undertake the majority of the domiciliary midwifery cases in the Borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following table gives details of the various treatment centres and clinics operated by the Kent County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRE.	SESSIONS.	
	Days.	Times.
Child Welfare Centres:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Tuesday and Thursday	2 p.m.
Congregational Church Hall, Rusthall.	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
St. Luke's Church Hall, 36, Silverdale Road.	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Friday	2 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation & Vaccination Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday	2 p.m.
School Health Service:— Minor Ailment Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace,	Monday and Saturday	9 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace	Wednesday	9 a.m.
Orthopædic Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace	1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday	9 a.m.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Clinics.	Days.	Times.
Chest Clinic :— Homœopathic Hospital	Friday	10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.0 to 5.0 p.m.
Clinic for treatment of Venereal Diseases :— Kent and Sussex Hospital	Wednesday (Females)	2.0 to 4.0 p.m.
	Wednesday (Males)	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.

Scabies.

A Cleansing Station is provided at the Central Clinic. I am pleased to report that for the first time for many years the facilities available at this station were not required.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended).

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

During the year it was necessary to apply for one Order under this section. This was a case of an old man of 91 years, who was infirm and living in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to himself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. A compulsory order for his removal was obtained under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, and he was admitted to a hospital for the chronic sick.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

During the year the following medical examinations in connection with new appointments were carried out :—

Tunbridge Wells Borough	...	...	23
Kent County Council	...	...	43
			—
TOTAL	...	...	66
			==

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1953.

Water Supply.

Regular samples have been taken throughout the year of the Corporation main drinking water. All the samples were found to be satisfactory and the supply was sufficient both in quantity and quality throughout the period.

The chief source of supply is from the Pembury Water Works. For roughly half of the year the springs meet the requirements and during the remaining part of the year borewells give ample supply to supplement the flow from the springs. The water from the borewells passes through Candy Pressure Filters to remove its iron content. The remainder of the town's supply comes from the Saints' Hill borewell taking water from the Ashdown Sands at a depth of 407 feet.

In addition, samples were taken from the Tangiers Works which supplies water to an adjoining rural area.

There are now only 13 houses in the Borough not on mains supply, and the water supplies to these premises receives close supervision. As these premises are in remote parts of the district it is difficult to supply them with mains water supply at a reasonable expense.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal.

Sewage is treated at the North Farm and South Farm Sewage Works. Reconstruction of the North Farm Sewage Works was practically complete by the end of the year and the new works will come into operation early in the new year.

Approximately 200 houses not on the main sewer have their cesspools emptied eight times a year free of charge.

A weekly collection of household refuse is carried out in the Borough. The Holly Farm controlled tip was completed

during the year. In the autumn controlled tipping was commenced to fill in the disused open air swimming bath. As this bath was in close proximity to houses great care had to be taken in the tipping. Regular inspection was carried out of the tipping conditions to ensure that no nuisances arose. No rats were ever found on the tip and the work was carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

Housing.

It is gratifying to know that a serious attempt to tackle the disrepair of the smaller cottage properties to prevent their further deterioration is on the way.

With regard to the properties beyond repair many houses falling into this category have been inspected and recorded by the Inspectors during 1953.

One of the most serious problems found during the survey was the inability of the persons living in unfit premises to pay the rents of post-war houses. This is an old problem experienced in all parts of the country during slum clearance programmes in the years immediately prior to 1939, but the problem has been intensified by present-day building costs.

Another aspect of the housing situation is the number of large Victorian houses found in this type of district erected for the large families and staffs of that period and now occupied by several families or let off in rooms. In many cases this type of dwelling has basement rooms three feet or more below the level of the ground in separate occupation. A large number of these basement flats are not fit for habitation owing to their dampness and darkness, though there is a great demand for these flats as they are more or less self-contained.

During the year steps were taken to prevent the re-occupation of three basement flats. When housing conditions become a little easier more intensive efforts will have to be made to close the worst of these basements to prevent their use for living purposes.

Seven houses, subjected to Demolition Orders, were demolished during the year, and four part buildings in addition to the basement already mentioned were subjected to Closing Orders.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Regular inspection was carried out at the two Government-controlled slaughterhouses. During the year 20,056 animals were slaughtered and all were inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors who are all qualified Meat and Food Inspectors.

At certain periods of the year the slaughterhouses were badly overcrowded and at these times conditions prevailing in the buildings were far from desirable. The two premises in use are providing home-killed meat for a population of well over 100,000.

Owing to this heavy killing the Inspectors had, on occasion, to be at the premises late in the evening and at some weekends to ensure a satisfactory inspection of the animals slaughtered.

I can only repeat, as in previous reports, that this part of the country is in great need of a modern building, properly sited, to ensure that animals for food are slaughtered with the least suffering, that proper hygiene can be carried out throughout the process of slaughtering, and that, by the provision of proper cooling facilities, meat will not deteriorate after slaughter.

The bulk of the unsound meat at the slaughterhouses was collected by a firm of fat and bone merchants and was converted into sundry by-products after suitable heat-treatment.

After proper safeguards were taken a small quantity of unsound but not diseased meat was allowed to be used for animal feeding.

The unsound tinned foods are disposed of by placing at the bottom of the refuse in the Corporation controlled tip. An Inspector supervises each consignment to ensure that the tins are properly buried.

Milk and Ice Cream.

Four dairies have licensed plants for the pasteurisation of milk. Samples of the milk passing through the plants are taken twice monthly to check that the milk is receiving the correct heating to destroy pathogenic organisms.

For the past few years over 98 per cent. of the milk retailed in the Borough is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested Milk.

The tables show that regular sampling of ice cream is carried out. The greater portion of ice cream retailed is of the pre-packed variety.

Clean Food.

One thousand, eight hundred and sixty-seven visits were made to food premises including 241 visits to cafés and restaurants. These figures show that the inspection of this type of premises is of a routine nature. No serious defects or omissions were discovered but many improvements of a minor character were carried out.

The risk of outbreaks of food poisoning comes, in many cases, not from unsatisfactory buildings, but from the lack of elementary principles of hygiene on the part of persons handling the food. No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year.

Rodent Control.

For some time a new poison for rodents by the name of Warfarin has been in use by the Council's Rodent Operators. By and large it has replaced the previous methods of poisoning for infestations above ground. Baits containing the poison are put down and replaced daily for three or four days until none of the baits are taken. The rats do not apparently notice the poison and continue eating the baits until destroyed. One advantage of Warfarin is that it is not harmful to bird life.

Regular treatments of the sewers were carried out. The Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who reimburse local authorities part of the cost of rodent control services, have agreed for this Department to carry out a new system of sewer treatments whereby the amount of time spent on this work can be cut down thus reducing costs. The system so far appears to be working satisfactorily but we are at present carrying out the treatments on an experimental basis along with a few other authorities.

* * *

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the support given by the Committee and yourself at all times.

T. S. ELLIS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives a general summary of the visits and work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1953 other than in respect of Food Premises :—

[illegible]

TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN OF DRINKING WATER.

1.	Corporation Supply.				Passed.	Failed.
	(a) PEMBURY WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	7	0
	(b) SAINTS' HILL WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	4	0
	(c) TANGIER WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	4	0
2.	Pantiles Chalybeate Spring.					
	Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	5	1
3.	Private Supplies (Treated).					
	Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	1	4
	Private Supplies (Untreated).					
	Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	1	5

TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN OF SWIMMING BATH WATER.

Corporation Swimming Bath, Monson Road.					Passed.	Failed.
Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	...	20	0
Chemical Samples	...	...	...	...	4	0

HOUSING.

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—					Number	
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	567	
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	1,602	
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	239	
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose	...	...	...	369	
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—						
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	225	
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—						
(a)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	5	
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(i)	By owners	...	...	...	4	
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0	
(b)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—</i>					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	8	
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(i)	By owners	...	...	...	7	
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0	
(c)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>					
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	0	
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	7	
(d)	<i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>					
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	7	
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	0	
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—						

On inspection of 173 low-grade cottage property in all parts of the Borough 13 were found to be overcrowded. One of these overcrowded families was subsequently rehoused by the Council.

Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	74	81	7	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	203	246	13	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	278	328	20	0

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	11	12	0	7	0
Overcrowding ... (S.2)	1	1	0	1	0
Unreasonable temperature ... (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors ... (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	0	0	0	1	0
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	6	0	2	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	0	1	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	3	3	0	2	0
TOTAL	20	24	0	14	0

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110. (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	5	—	—	—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Number of food premises in the Borough** ... 386

Type of Business:

Bakehouses and bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	34
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	33
Cafés and restaurants	...	...	...	...	44
Dairies	...	...	...	...	6
Fish shops and fish fryers	...	...	...	...	20
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	41
Grocers and mixed	...	...	...	...	108
Ice Cream Factory	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	61
Market (covered)	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Sweet and cake shops	...	...	...	...	22
Miscellaneous food premises	...	...	...	...	13

The nature of business has been classified according to the principal trade as two or more trades are often carried on from the same premises.

Number of food premises registered under :

(i) *Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:*

(a) Fish Fryers ... 6

(b) Manufacturers of sausages, or potted, presses, pickled or preserved food ... 36

(c) Manufacture and/or sale of ice cream ... 99

(ii) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:*

Dairies ... 6

Number of Inspections of Food Premises :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	57
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	209
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	134
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	128
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	46
Restaurants and café kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	241
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	680
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	372

Of the total of 1,867 visits to food premises 471 visits were to registered premises.

(b) Milk Supply :—

Licences in force at the end of the year :—

Pasteurisers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dealers' Licences : Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	13
Supplementary Licences : Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	3

Number of Distributors of Milk in the Borough :—

(a) with premises inside the Borough	...	...	...	...	21
(b) with premises outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	6

Number of shops (not dairies) selling bottled milk ... 20

Number of Samples taken :

Taken. Unsatisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	92	3
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	...	...	...	...	43	3
For Biological Examination	...	...	...	...	7	0

(c) Ice Cream:—

Number of Manufacturers of Ice Cream ... 4

Number of other premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream ... 95

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination ... 37

The 37 samples were graded as follows : Grade 1 ... 23

Grade 2 ... 8

Grade 3 ... 3

Grade 4 ... 3

(d) Meat and other Foods:—

(i) Details of Food found to be unfit for human consumption in Government-controlled slaughterhouses :—

<i>Item of Food.</i>				<i>Weight.</i>				<i>Tubercular Weight.</i>					
				<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	
Beef	...	...	...	7	18	0	23	including	6	4	3	15
„	offals	...	...	12	19	3	3	„	4	15	2	0
Pork	...	...	...	1	15	2	2	„		8	2	3
„	offals	...	...		10	3	10	„			3	13
Veal	...	...	...		2	3	25	„			1	22
„	offals	...	...			3	0	„				16
Mutton	...	...	...		6	2	11					
„	offals	...	...		4	3	6					
Total weight				...	23	19	1	24					

(ii) Details of Food found to be unfit for human consumption in Retail and Wholesale Food premises :—

<i>Item of Food.</i>				<i>Weight.</i>			
				<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cereals	...	...	...	...	1	0	2
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	2	11½
Fish (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
„ (cured)	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Fish	...	...	...	...	4	0	22
Flour	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Fruit (canned)	...	...	...	1	8	3	22
Ham	...	...	...	...	2	3	3¾

<i>Item of Food.</i>						<i>Weight.</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
						<i>T.</i>	<i>C. Q.</i>	
Honey	...	...	...	...	...			6½
Jam	...	...	...	...	...		1 1	5½
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...			23
Meat (canned)	...	...	...	...	...		11 1	2¼
Meat and offal (home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...	1	9 2	25
Meat and offal (imported)	...	...	...	...	...		3 2	8½
Milk (canned)	...	...	...	...	...		4 1	13
Pastes and Spreads	...	...	...	...	...			18
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...		1 0	8½
Raisins	...	...	...	...	...			3¾
Sausages and sausage meat	...	...	...	...	...		2 1	6¼
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...		1 2	4
Soups	...	...	...	...	...			27
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	...			4
Sweets and chocolate	...	...	...	...	...			26
Tea	...	...	...	...	...			13½
Vegetables (canned)	...	...	...	...	...		5 2	5½
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...		1 1	15¼
TOTAL						5	5 2	15¾

TABLE OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AND FOUND UNFIT.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ...	3,419	822	2,376	8,257	5,182
Number inspected ...	3,419	822	2,376	8,257	5,182
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcasses found unfit ...	1	6	6	15	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was found unfit ...	1,260	336	18	204	202
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	36.88%	41.60%	1.01%	2.65%	4.36%
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>					
Whole carcasses found unfit ...	9	14	1	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was found unfit ...	198	105	1	—	43
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	6.05%	14.47%	0.08%	—	0.86%

WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

No. of premises found to be infested with rats and/or mice	...	...	352
Treatments made as a result of complaint—rats (major)	...	...	47
" " " " " " "—rats (minor)	...	...	224
" " " " " " "—mice	...	...	97
" " " " " " " survey —rats (major)	...	...	5
" " " " " " "—rats (minor)	...	...	32
" " " " " " "—mice	...	...	2

(It will be noted that a number of premises received two or more treatments during the year.)

No. of complaints where infestation was not confirmed	...	...	29
" " visits by Rodent Operators	...	...	2,126
" " " Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	249

Sewer Treatments:—

No. of manholes test-baited during the year	...	...	...	140
" " " poison-baited (1st treatment)	...	...	...	169
" " " " (2nd treatment)	...	...	...	167
" " " " (3rd treatment)	...	...	...	72

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Three formal samples taken from three churns taken at the place of delivery, a local dairy, were found to contain extraneous water varying in amount from 2.6 per cent. to 4.8 per cent. A visit to the farm showed that the water had entered the milk through a leaking cooler. The cooler was an enclosed type and the farmer was quite unaware that water was entering the milk. He subsequently received a caution and immediately purchased a new cooler.

Formal samples taken in course of delivery of a consignment of milk showed that one churn of milk had a deficiency of 11.7 per cent. of milk-fat. The farmer was requested to take steps to improve the quality of the milk produced by his cows and the Agricultural Executive Committee was also informed.

An informal sample of milk taken from one churn of a farmer's consignment of milk to a dairy was found to have a milk-fat deficiency of 10.0 per cent. The whole consignment from the same farmer was sampled at a later date and the milk was found to be up to standard.

Quite a number of Channel Island milks, though above the Food and Drugs standard of 3.0 per cent. milk-fat, were below the 4.0 per cent. Ministry of Food standard for Channel Island milk. It does appear necessary that there should be some change in the legislation to enforce producers of Channel Island milk to supply milk up to the 4.0 per cent. standard as they receive a bonus of 4d. per gallon for Channel Island milk.

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1953 UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Nature of Sample.	Examined.			Adulterated.		
	Formal.	Informal.	Total.	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Beef Tea	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bitter Beer	3	—	3	—	—	—
Cake Decorations	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chutney	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cream (Devon)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream (Double)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream (Sterilised)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	2	2	—	—	—
Glace Cherries	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Nutmeg	—	1	1	—	—	—
Honey	—	2	2	—	—	—
Iodine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Flavour Jelly	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Juice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lime Marmalade	—	1	1	—	—	—
Marzipan	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk	26	17	43	4	1	5
Milk—Channel Island	10	14	24	—	—	—
Olive Oil	—	2	2	—	—	—
Ovaltine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper (white)	—	2	2	—	—	—
Popcorn	—	1	1	—	—	—
Raspberry Jam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Rice Cake Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Salad Cream	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sal Volatile	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sardine and Tomato Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sausages (Pork)	—	5	5	—	—	—
Spreads	—	2	2	—	—	—
Tea	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vinegar	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whisky	—	2	2	—	—	—
Wholemeal Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Zinc Ointment	—	2	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	40	77	117	4	1	5

WEATHER INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR 1953.

The Municipal Meteorological Station is an official Auxiliary Station. As a Spa town readings are sent every evening to the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry.

Recording instruments are mainly situated in the Calverley Grounds—a Corporation-controlled park—but to obtain the necessary freedom from obstruction of the sun's rays the sunshine recorder is mounted on the roof of the Earl's Court Hotel on Mount Ephraim. The standard "Fortin" barometer is at the Town Hall. The annual inspection of the station and instruments was carried out on the 14th September by Mr. G. A. Tunnell, a Meteorological Officer of the Air Ministry.

Readings are taken at 9.0 a.m. G.M.T. and 6.0 p.m. clock time throughout the year, and general observations on the state of the weather are taken at all times with particular note of rain, snow, hail, times of thunderstorms and any other phenomena.

The work is carried out by members of the Health Department on a rota system and during 1953 the duties were carried out by Mr. A. Barnett, Mr. T. Ellison and Mr. T. Steel, and later by Mr. D. A. Barmby who acted as Relief Observer for three months.

Sunshine.

The 1,615.6 hours of sunshine during the year was only 2.5 hours below average. Sunshine was below average during January and February, above for March, April and May, below again for June and July, above for August and September and below once more for the remaining three months.

May was the sunniest month of the year with 241.9 hours of sunshine—an average of 7.8 hours daily—whilst January

had least with only 30 hours. The sunniest day was 5th July with 14.7 hours of sunshine.

There were 77 sunless days during the year compared with an average of 66 days.

Precipitation.

1953 was the third driest year since 1893 lower totals being recorded in 1933 with 22.19 and in 1921 with 16.45 inches of rain. The rainfall total of 23.21 inches was therefore well below the yearly average of 30.38 inches. The first quarter of the year was over 60 per cent. below average and the last quarter was 45 per cent. below normal. All months had average or below average rainfall with the exception of April, July and September. This latter month with 3.98 inches was the wettest September since 1935, and the wettest month of the year.

March with 0.24 inches and December with 0.92 inches were exceptionally dry months. March was the third driest since 1900 and the only lower March totals being 0.06 in 1944 and 0.05 in 1929, and it was the driest December since 1933. No appreciable rain fell in the 39 day period from the 15th February to the 25th March, and there was also a fairly dry spell during the 34 days from 10th November to 13th December.

Snow occurred early in the year only and fell on four days in January lying 3 inches deep on the morning of the 7th, and on seven days in February lying 2 inches deep on the morning of the 15th.

Hail was recorded on seven days and thunder was heard on nine days. Rain days numbered 135 against an average of 171. The wettest day of the year was the 30th April when 1.11 inches of rain was recorded.

Temperature.

The mean temperature throughout the year was 49.7°F . which was slightly above the normal average of 49.2°F . The mean daily range of temperature was also slightly higher being 14.6°F . the average being 14.5°F .

The highest temperature during the year was 87°F . which was recorded on the 25th May and again on the 12th August. The first two weeks of August were particularly warm and sunny with temperatures in the 70's. December was notably warm and the monthly mean maximum temperature of 48.8°F . was the highest since 1934, whilst the maximum of 59°F . on the 4th December was the highest maximum recorded for the month since records began in 1914. It was the warmest December for 19 years—the maximum temperature did not fall below 40°F . and the minimum did not fall below 27°F .

The lowest temperatures of the year were recorded during February. On the 14th the temperature did not rise above freezing point, the lowest air temperature was 18°F . on the 8th and the lowest grass temperature was 17°F . also on the 8th.

The last ground frost in the spring was on the 26th April and the last air frost in the spring on the 12th May. The first ground frost of the winter was on the 31st October and the first air frost of the winter did not occur until the 3rd of November. There were 70 ground frosts during the year.

The hottest nights of the year were on the 12th and 13th August when the temperature did not fall below 63°F .

Wind.

The wind direction at 9.0 a.m. was North on 35 days, North-east on 70 days, East 19 days, South-east 24 days, South 29 days, South-west 100 days, West 56 days, North-west 31 days, and calm conditions were recorded on the 28th November. Gale strength winds were recorded on the 21st September.

General.

The mean amount of cloud during 1953 at the observation hour was 7.01, the average being 6.71 (10 representing completely overcast sky). As noted in previous reports cloud amount is now measured in Oktas, or eighths of the sky covered with cloud, and this method is used for recording but for continuity the old method has again been used in this summary.

Fog at the observation hour was recorded on 32 days and it was misty on 47 other mornings. The average relative humidity at this hour was 84 per cent.

The barometer was highest during the long dry spell early in the year when it rose to 30.831 on the 10th March and was lowest on the 27th April when the reading was 29.263.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES 1953.

Month.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature. In shade 4 feet above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
							One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	1953.	39 year average.	1953.	73 year average.	1953.	63 year average.	1953.	53 year average.	1953.	39 year average.
January ...	Hrs. 30 Mins. 0	Hrs. 52 Mins. 48	Inches. 1.14	Inches. 2.74	°F. 36.1	°F. 38.2	°F. 36.4	°F. 39.2	°F. 39.8	°F. 43.0
February ...	61 54	71 48	1.31	2.30	38.0	38.9	37.6	38.9	39.9	41.9
March ...	142 30	124 6	0.24	2.23	42.1	42.2	41.2	41.7	42.3	42.8
April ...	165 36	157 36	2.33	2.00	46.5	46.8	47.8	47.3	46.4	46.8
May ...	241 54	211 42	1.57	1.95	55.7	53.1	57.6	54.7	52.9	51.6
June ...	178 0	221 36	1.90	1.90	57.9	58.2	60.8	60.8	57.5	57.0
July ...	186 0	211 0	3.10	2.23	60.2	61.7	63.8	63.7	61.3	60.4
August ...	231 24	195 6	1.96	2.44	61.7	61.2	64.1	63.3	62.3	61.6
September ...	193 36	150 30	3.98	2.29	57.1	57.2	58.7	59.2	60.2	60.2
October ...	88 24	110 36	3.02	3.49	50.5	50.2	52.0	52.4	55.1	56.0
November ...	54 6	63 18	1.74	3.56	46.1	43.4	46.7	45.7	50.4	50.2
December ...	42 12	48 0	0.92	3.25	44.3	39.7	45.3	41.2	48.6	45.5
	1615 36	1618 6	23.21	30.38	49.7	49.2	51.0	50.7	51.4	51.4

